

REMARKS

This response is filed in response to an Office Action dated December 9, 2002 issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above identified application. Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 10, and 11 have been amended. Claims 3, 6-9, and 12-14 remain in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bartholomew et al. (US Patent No: 6,215,858).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 10, and 11 have been amended.

Independent claim 1 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call which, *inter alia*, includes routing the incoming telephone call to a dedicated server which digitizes the voice message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 1 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

Similarly, independent claim 4 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call in email message format to a recipient which, *inter alia*, includes the caller dialing a telephone number associated with a dedicated server which digitizes the voice message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated

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server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 4 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

Bartholomew et al. ('858) describes a method for mailbox to mailbox communication by transferring a voice message from a mailbox in a first (transferring) telephone network to a mailbox in a second (receiving) telephone network. The system described by Bartholomew et al. ('858) is limited to switched communication networks such as PSTN using SS7 protocol.

Though Similarly, independent claim 4 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call in email message format to a recipient which, *inter alia*, includes the caller dialing a telephone number associated with a dedicated server which digitizes the voice message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 4 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

Bartholomew et al. ('858) system is capable of translating the input message from one format to another such as voice into email, the system describes the transfer of a message from the caller and delivering it in the mode requested by the caller at the time the call is initialized (see the examples in columns 37-40). That is, the transferring network is the active network, which carries out any conversion necessary (as requested by the caller) while the receiving network is passive, merely carrying out the instructions sent by the transferring network.

Similarly, independent claim 4 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call in email message format to a recipient which, *inter alia*, includes the caller dialing a telephone number associated with a dedicated server which digitizes the voice message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at

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least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 4 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

Bartholomew et al. ('858) neither describes nor suggests a receiving network routing an *incoming* call, irrespective of the signaling protocols, to a dedicated server which is configured to digitize the message and forward it as an attachment to an email message.

Independent claim 10 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a facsimile message in email message format to a recipient, which, *inter alia*, includes the caller dialing a facsimile number associated with a dedicated server which converts the fax message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 10 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

Similarly, independent claim 4 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call in email message format to a recipient which, *inter alia*, includes the caller dialing a telephone number associated with a dedicated server which digitizes the voice message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 4 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

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Bartholomew et al. ('858) neither describes nor suggests a receiving network routing an *incoming* facsimile call, irrespective of the signaling protocols, to a dedicated server which is configured to convert the message and forward it as an attachment to an email message.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited by the Examiner, that is, Similarly, independent claim 4 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call in email message format to a recipient which, *inter alia*, includes the caller dialing a telephone number associated with a dedicated server which digitizes the voice message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 4 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

Bartholomew et al. ('858), does not anticipate Applicant's amended claims 1, 4 and 10.

Since claims 2-3 depend from independent claim 1, claims 5-9 depend from independent claim 1 and claims 11-14 depend from independent claim 10, claims 2-3, 5-9 and 11-14 cannot be anticipated for the reasons described above with respect to claims 1, 4 and 10, respectively.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 2, 5 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartholomew et al. in view of Bobo,II (US 5,675,507).

Claims 8, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartholomew et al. in view of Hyde-Thomson (US 5,557,659).

Applicants believe this rejection has been overcome in view of the amendments made above and the remarks that follow.

Claim 2 is dependent from independent claim 1, claims 5 and 8 are dependent from independent claim 4 and claim 11 is dependent from independent claim 10.

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Independent claims 1, 4 and 10 have been discussed above with respect to Similarly, independent claim 4 has been amended and discloses a method for forwarding a telephone call in email message format to a recipient which, *inter alia*, includes the caller dialing a telephone number associated with a dedicated server which digitizes the voice message so that it may be sent as an email message attachment via the Internet, to at least one email address which is associated with the number being dialed. The dedicated server is associated with an unified messaging system which is configured to receive voice messages from any one of the telephone signaling protocols associated with PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) or PBX (Private Exchange). The method of claim 4 is not limited to a particular signaling protocol such as SS7 used by PSTN but is also compatible with any protocol including PBX, SIP and PRI, for example.

Bartholomew et al. ('858) and are relevant here. Independent claims 1, 4 and 10 include limitations that are not taught nor suggested by the either Bobo II ('507) or Hyde-Thomson ('659).

It is well established that obviousness requires a teaching or a suggestion by the relied upon prior art of all the elements of a claim (M.P.E.P. §2142). Without conceding the appropriateness of the combination, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Bartholomew et al. and Bobo II ('507) or the combination of Bartholomew et al. and Hyde-Thomson ('659) do not meet the requirements of an obvious rejection in that neither teaches nor suggests a receiving network routing an *incoming* facsimile call, irrespective of the signaling protocols, to a dedicated server which is configured to convert the message and forward it as an attachment to an email message.

Since claim 2 is dependent from independent claim 1, claims 5 and 8 are dependent from independent claim 4 and claim 11 is dependent from independent claim 10, Applicants believe these claims are not obvious for at least the same reason.

Applicant notes the Examiner's citation of prior art to complete the record.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the art of record and are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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